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NOTES AND FRAGMENTS

THE WHEREABOUTS OF SAM HOUSTON IN 1834.—Historians and biographers have been puzzled as to the whereabouts of Houston in 1834. Lester in *The Life of Sam Houston*, which appeared anonymously in 1855, gives no events in his life between the convention at San Felipe de Austin in 1833 and the military affairs of 1835; pp. 65-70 cover the period. Yoakum, *History of Texas* (1856), I, 311, discusses the part he played in the San Felipe meeting; nothing farther is given until events in 1835; see I, 328, 350. Crane, *Life and Select Literary Remains of Sam Houston of Texas* (1885), I, 49-54, shows the same deficiency, as does Bruce, *Life of General Houston* (1901), 85-93. Williams, *Sam Houston and the War of Independence in Texas* (1895), 92-93, does worse than the rest for he garbles the story by placing events of 1835 in 1834. Garrison, *Texas* (1903), 195-196, makes this guarded statement, "Sam Houston, who seems to have left Texas soon after the convention of 1833, and to have returned just previous to the consultation [1835], and who was a delegate from Nacogdoches, offered a resolution instructing the committee to declare in favor of the constitution of 1824." Barker, *Jackson and the Texas Revolution* in *The American Historical Review*, XII, 802-803, says: "He did attend the Convention of April, 1833, and the Constitution there adopted for the proposed state of Texas . . . was largely his work. But his life is a blank to history for the next two years, and it is not till past the middle of 1835, when the revolution was well under way, that we find him at Nacogdoches, speaking at a public meeting. . . . The writer has examined hundreds of letters and public documents, both Texan and Mexican, on the development of the revolution, has collected with few exceptions the proceedings of all the public meetings and revolutionary committees, and has found nowhere a single reference to General Houston."

The last writer who has added his testimony is Justin H. Smith, *The Annexation of Texas*, which work appeared in 1911. On page 28 he says, "Let us look now at Houston. He first became prominent in Texan Affairs at the head of a committee appointed to draw a State Constitution, the acceptance of which

by Mexico would have prevented the rebellion that soon occurred. In October, 1835, he wrote, 'Our principles are to support the Constitution (of 1824) and down with the usurper!'" Not he, but Anson Jones, appears to have set the ball of independence rolling. In fact no trace of him is to be discovered for more than two years during the critical stage of the budding revolution, and when he reappears, it is not at the principal seat of the movement. Hundreds of Texan and Mexican documents bearing on the genesis of the rebellion have been searched for his name without success." In this the author has but followed Barker's article.

The mystery of Houston's whereabouts in 1834 is dispelled by Mrs. Jefferson Davis in the life of her husband. The exact title is *Jefferson Davis, ex-President of the Confederate States of America, A Memoir by his Wife*. It was copyrighted in 1890. In I, 156-157, this passage occurs, "Horace and Hannibal Bonney, twin brothers, who enlisted in the First Dragoons in 1833, marched to Jefferson Barracks, which was then an outpost on the extreme frontier. After a winter spent there the troops were ordered to Fort Gibson, Ark., and on their arrival were welcomed by a body of five hundred or more Indian Warriors in the full glory of their native costumes. At their head rode a man, over six feet in height, dressed all in buckskin, and when Horace Bonney inquired who this white warrior was, with all these red men, he was informed that it was the redoubtable Captain Sam Houston."

THOMAS MAITLAND MARSHALL.

THE TEXAS REPUBLICAN.—Two notes on the *Texas Republican* have previously appeared in THE QUARTERLY.¹ The interest that attaches to this pioneer among newspapers in Texas and the information contained in the extracts below will, perhaps, excuse this additional note. These extracts add to our information concerning the issues for August 14, 21 and 28, 1819, and throw some light on the condition of Texas at that time, the motives that animated Dr. Long and the kind of appeal he made for help.

The *Mississippi Republican* (Natchez) of August 31, 1819, says "We have just received the first number of the *Texas Republican*, from which a few extracts are given in this day's paper."

¹THE QUARTERLY, VI, 162-5; VII, 242-3.

Army of Texas.

Camp Freeman, June 22, 1819.

On taking the command of the army of the Republic, which has been vested in him by the voice of the representatives of the people, the Commander-in-Chief cannot refrain from expressing his sensibility to so distinguished a token of public confidence. Aware of the responsibility which this important station imposes, it is with diffidence of his own abilities, but with no distrust of the goodness of the cause in which these troops are levied, nor with any doubt of its ultimate success, that he enters upon its duties: he pledges himself to fulfill them to the utmost of his power.

From his comrades in arms he expects a ready co-operation in those measures which he may deem it expedient to adopt to bring the approaching contest to a happy issue. It is not necessary for him to appeal to a patriotism which has already evinced itself in rallying round the standard of Independence, or to add stimulants to a zeal which shrinks from no sacrifice, and which no danger can appal. He trusts that no individual under his command will tarnish the character of a soldier by the commission of any act which may call for his animadversion; but he owes it to himself, to his country, and to the reputation of the army, to declare his determination rigidly to punish every violation of the rules and articles of war. The very existence of an army, not less than the well-being of the country whose banner it upholds, and whose rights it professes to vindicate, imperiously requires the strictest preservation of discipline. Under this conviction, the Commander-in-Chief will feel himself compelled to inflict the full measure of justice on every offender. The rewards which await those who faithfully persevere to the end, conjoined with that sense of honor which should be cherished in every soldier's bosom, will operate as a sufficient incentive to all who are capable of appreciating their own interests, or who have at heart their country's welfare, to pursue with undeviating step the path of duty.

James Long, Commander-in-Chief.

General Order.

Head-Quarters, Nacogdoches,

June 25, 1819.

All officers of the army of the Republic of Texas who are not otherwise ordered, will, without delay, repair to Head-quarters. Those failing to comply will be stricken from the rolls of the army.

James Long, Commander-in-Chief.¹

¹The "General Order" was followed by the article from the *Texas Republican* printed in THE QUARTERLY, VI, 163-5.

The *Port Gibson Correspondent* of September 25, 1819, contained the following "from the *Texas Republican*, Aug. 21":

On the 19th inst. the detachment under the command of Gen. Long met a Spanish woman 40 miles west of Nacogdoches, by the name of Maria El Garma Freminia. She was found in a state of starvation, and comparatively naked. She states that she left Labadie a few weeks ago in company with two men, both soldiers in the service of the king of Spain, and not knowing the road, they wandered about in the woods for many days in search of provision, but without finding any. One of the men turned off by himself to look for water, but he never returned to them, and they supposed that he must have died. The other man and this woman journeyed on but a short distance when he died for want of provision, and she began to expect the same fate; however, she finally fell into the main road leading from Labadie to this place, and subsisted on a pole cat in the woods until she met with general Long's detachment, from whence she has been sent to this place. She also adds, that when she left Labadie, that place was in a very unpleasant situation—that garrison being in a state of total defection, having in it not more than twenty soldiers at the time of her leaving the place, the most of whom watched only for an opportunity to run away; that they are not well supplied with provisions; that the Comanche Indians, their eternal enemies, harrass them and keep them continually annoyed on every side, so that they cannot go more than one mile in safety from the place. The commandant of St. Antonio cannot assist them.

In the issue of September 18th, the *Port Gibson Correspondent* published the extract from the *Texas Republican*, printed in THE QUARTERLY, VII, 242-3, and credited it, and the notice "To Settlers" below, to the *Texas Republican* of August 28th:

To Settlers.

The army being now on a march to the Brassos, and a fort contemplated to be erected at that place, it will give the utmost security to families wishing to settle in this country. From the great facility of getting lands, the quality of which cannot be excelled, as well as the mildness of the climate, it holds forth the greatest inducements at this time to persons to settle; and as the army will always be one hundred miles at least in advance of the settlements, it will give them the fullest protection.

Now is the time, as the first settlers will certainly have the most choice lands, in greater abundance, and on much better terms, than those who wait to see our troubles over without shewing a disposition to effect the settlement of the country or contributing in any manner to advance the cause.

E. W. WINKLER.